

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: MEETINGS OF POLITICAL WORKING
GROUP, MAY 10 AND 11

CTB MESSAGE NO.199

1. INITIAL MEETING OF POLITICAL WORKING GROUP WAS DEVOTED
PRIMARILY TO PROCEDURAL ISSUES. THOSE ATTENDING WERE
TIMERBAEV, BEZUMOV, BELOV, SLIPCHENKO AND MYASNIKOV
(USSR); BIRCH, WETHERELL, WEEKS, BISHOP AND BRINKLEY (UK);
NEIDLE, HECKROTTE, SCHRAG, GIVAN AND PHELPS (US). GROUP
DECIDED THAT INITIAL DISCUSSION OF LANGUAGE FOR SEPARATE
AGREEMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN FULL POLITICAL WORKING
GROUP WITH SUB-GROUPS CONVENED IF NECESSARY FOR CONSIDER-
ING DRAFTING ON PARTICULAR POINTS. PARTICIPANTS DIS-
CUSSED GENERAL STATE OF PLAY WHEN NEGOTIATIONS HAD RECES-
SED IN MARCH, WITH ALL DELEGATIONS COMMENTING THAT
EXCHANGES AND INSIGHTS DEVELOPED AT END OF ROUND HAD BEEN
HELPFUL AND PROVIDED GOOD BASIS FOR RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS.

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GROUP AGREED TO BEGIN WORK ON LANGUAGE FORMULATIONS AT
WORKING GROUP MEETING ON MAY 11.

2. AT MEETING ON MAY 11,(WITH SAME ATTENDANCE PLUS
MATUSCHCHENKO OF USSR), US DEL DISTRIBUTED NEW
ILLUSTRATIVE LANGUAGE (SEPTTEL) PERTAINING TO REQUESTS FOR
OSI ALONG WITH CONFORMING CHANGES IN THE AGREED UNDER-

STANDING AND RELEVANT PARAGRAPH OF THE US WORKING PAPER CONTAINING LANGUAGE FOR MULTILATERAL TREATY. NEIDLE DESCRIBED THE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE IN THE DELEGATION'S DRAFT FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLARITY, CONSISTENCY, AND STREAMLINING OF THE TEXT. HE STRESSED THAT THE DELEGATION HAD SOUGHT TO DEVELOP THE BEST FORMULATION WITH RESPECT TO EACH ISSUE, INCLUDING THE TYPE OF EVENT THAT COULD TRIGGER A REQUEST, THE PURPOSE OF AN OSI, THE EVIDENCE TO BE PRESENTED, AND THE SEQUENCE OF STEPS IN REQUESTING AN OSI. HE INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAD INCLUDED "SEISMIC" EVIDENCE AS ONE OF THE KINDS OF EVIDENCE THAT COULD JUSTIFY A REQUEST FOR AN OSI, OTHER KINDS OF EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL PHENOMENA THAT WERE NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION SHOULD ALSO PERMIT A PARTY TO MAKE A REQUEST FOR AN INSPECTION.

3. TIMERBAEV SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS OF THE US DELEGATION IN PROVIDING THE TEXT. HE THEN PERMITTED SOVIET DELOFF BEZUMOV TO ASK SEVERAL QUESTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY AS TO THE MEANING OF "APPROXIMATE TIME" OF THE EVENT, NEIDLE SAID THAT DEGREE OF APPROXIMATION WOULD DEPEND ON THE TYPE OF EVIDENCE. IF THE EVIDENCE WOULD PERMIT A PARTY TO SPECIFY THE TIME OF THE EVENT FAIRLY PRECISELY, AS IN THE CASE OF SEISMIC EVIDENCE, THIS WOULD BE DONE. BUT IF THE EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL PHENOMENA DID NOT PERMIT THIS, THE REQUESTING

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PARTY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE ITS BEST APPROXIMATION. HE NOTED, AS AN EXAMPLE, THAT EVIDENCE OF A CAVITY COLLAPSE THAT RESULTED IN SURFACE CRATERING MIGHT BE EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD NOT FIX THE TIME OF THE EVENT WITH PRECISION.

4. BEZUMOV ASKED WHETHER THE PROPOSED INSPECTION "AREA" CONTEMPLATED SPECIFYING COORDINATES OF AN AREA WHERE AN EVENT HAD BEEN RECORDED. NEIDLE REPLIED THAT A PARTY WOULD GIVE ITS BEST ESTIMATE OF PLACE AS WELL AS TIME. SPECIFICATION OF TIME AND PLACE WOULD OFTEN BE SOMETHING OF AN APPROXIMATION.

5. TIMERBAEV ASKED WHY WE HAD SPECIFIED 30 DAYS FOR REPLYING TO AN OSI REQUEST. HECKROTTE (US) REPLIED THAT THE NUMBER REPRESENTED OUR ESTIMATE OF THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE FOR THE REQUESTED PARTY TO ASSESS THE REQUEST, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE FIELD SURVEY, ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS, AND FORMULATION OF RESPONSES. TIMERBAEV REMARKED THAT, IN FORMULATING ITS PROPOSAL, HE PRESUMED THE US DELEGATION PROBABLY HAD IN MIND THE AREA AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OF THE US. HECKROTTE REPLIED THAT WE HAD TRIED TO CONSIDER, AS WELL, CONDITIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION.

JOHNSON

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